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## Alaska National Parks News Release

March 6, 2006

### Glacier Bay Regulations Proposed

Proposed regulations for more effectively managing vessel use in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve have been published in the Federal Register, and are currently open for public review through May 2, 2006. This proposed rule revises 36 CFR 13.65(b) regarding vessel quotas and operating requirements for five types of motor vessels — cruise ships, tour vessels, charter vessels, private vessels, and passenger ferries — within Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. This rule is proposed in conjunction with the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and the Record of Decision (ROD) for Vessel Quotas and Operating Requirements in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, completed in October and November 2003, respectively, and implements decisions made in the ROD.

This proposal is separate from a proposed decision to increase cruise ship entries by 10 percent in 2007; public comment has closed on that proposal and a decision is expected later this spring.

The newly proposed regulations are online at the Federal Register. Use this link and scroll down to National Park Service: [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fedreg/a060303c.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a060303c.html) . Copies may also be requested from Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve. New elements and a number of adjustments to the current regulations are in this proposed rule. They include:

- Establish two separate seasonal vessel quota periods for cruise ships. First, for May and September establish an initial quota of 92 cruise ships with potential to increase to 122. Second, for June 1-- August 31 re-establish an initial quota of 139 cruise ships with potential for incremental increases to 184 as under the 1996 regulations;
- Eliminate two private vessel seasonal categories (total entries and total vessel use days), thus increasing the total number of private vessels allowed in a season;
- Add a passenger ferry category to Bartlett Cove with a year-round daily vessel quota of one, in accordance with section 127 of P.L. 105-83 (Nov. 14, 1997);
- Modifying the definitions for cruise ship, charter, and tour vessels and add a definition for a passenger ferry;
- Close the waters at Beardslee Entrance and the entrance to Adams Inlet in Glacier Bay to cruise ships and tour vessels;
- Eliminate the permit exemption for private vessels based in Bartlett Cove;

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people  
so that all may experience our heritage.

- Relax existing private vessel orientation requirements;

The National Park Service is directed by the NPS Organic Act of 1916 to manage national parks and monuments to "conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." the jurisdiction of the United States . . . ." 16 U.S.C. § 1a-2(h). The Act furthermore delegated specific authority to "[p]romulgate and enforce regulations concerning boating and other activities on or relating to waters located within areas of the National Park System, including waters subject to required to be prepared prior to implementing vessel quota changes within park waters.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit your comments, identified by Regulatory Information Number (RIN), by any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- Mail: Superintendent, Proposed Vessel Management Plan Regulations Comment, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, P.O. Box 140, Gustavus, Alaska 99826.
- Hand Delivery/Courier: Superintendent, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve Headquarters Office at Bartlett Cove. Clearly identify the delivery as Proposed Vessel Management Plan Regulations Comments.

All submissions received must include the agency name and RIN.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Chuck Young, Chief Ranger, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, P.O. Box 140, Gustavus, Alaska 99826, Telephone: (907) 697-2230.